

### REMARKS

Claims 20, 28-31, 33-38, 40-45, 47-53, 55 and 56 are pending in this application, with claims 20, 34, 41 and 49 being independent. Each of claims 20, 34, 41 and 49 has been amended to include the limitation "wherein the first layer is in contact with the gate insulating film." Support for the amendments may be found in the application at least at Fig. 3C. No new matter has been introduced.

Independent claim 34 has been objected to for reciting the phrase "the fourth layer" rather than the phrase "a fourth layer." Applicants have amended claim 34 to overcome this objection.

Independent claims 20, 34, 41 and 49, and their dependent claims 28, 35, 42, 47, 50 and 55, have been rejected as being anticipated by Rodder (U.S. Patent No. 4,999,690). Claims 29, 36, 43 and 51, which depend from claims 20, 34, 41 and 49, have been rejected as being unpatentable over Rodder. Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections because Rodder does not describe or suggest the recited semiconductor device having a first layer of a source electrode that fills a side recess of a semiconductor layer and is in contact with a gate insulating film, as recited in claims 20, 34, 41 and 49.

Rodder describes a thin film field effect transistor that includes a silicide body 48, which the Examiner equates to the recited first layer, and a gate insulator layer 22, which the Examiner equates to the recited gate insulating film. The silicide body 48, however, is not in contact with the gate insulator layer 22. Rather, as shown in Fig. 1f, the silicide body 48 is in contact with a channel layer 20.

For at least this reason, applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 20, 34, 41 and 49, and their dependent claims.

Claims 29, 36, 43 and 51, which depend from claims 20, 34, 41 and 49, respectively, have been rejected as being unpatentable over Rodder in view Aratani (U.S. Patent No. 5,854,139). Aratani, which is relied upon solely for teaching a source electrode comprising indium silicide, does not remedy the failure of Rodder to describe or suggest the above feature. Thus, for at least these reasons, applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 29, 36, 43 and 51.

Applicants further note that the Examiner has failed to provide a proper motivation that would have led a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of the Rodder and Aratani references in the manner contemplated by the Examiner. In particular, the Examiner states that a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would have been led to form Rodder's silicide body 48 of indium silicide "in order to improve the characteristics of the device." Applicants submit that this asserted motivation is so generic that it is unclear and, therefore, improper. Applicants respectfully request that, should the Examiner choose to maintain this rejection, the Examiner specify which characteristics of the device he believes are improved by the proposed modification. Moreover, applicants submit, for the sake of argument, that even if the asserted motivation were clear, the Examiner has failed to establish a prima facie case of obviousness because the Examiner has not cited any support, either within the references themselves or within the purported knowledge of a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention, that would have led such a person to perform such a modification of Rodder's structure. For at least these additional reasons, applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 29, 36, 43 and 51.

Claims 31, 33, 38, 40, 45, 48, 53 and 56, which depend from claims 20, 34, 41 and 49, have been rejected as being unpatentable over Rodder in view of Applicant Admitted Prior Art (AAPA). AAPA, which is relied upon for teaching a second layer that contains aluminum and using a thin film device as an active matrix type EL display device, does not remedy the failure of Rodder to describe or suggest the recited first layer in contact with a gate insulating film, as discussed above. Thus, for at least these reasons, applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 31, 33, 38, 40, 45, 48, 53 and 56.

Claims 30, 37, 44 and 52, which depend from claims 20, 34, 41 and 49, respectively, have been rejected as being unpatentable over Rodder in view Tanaka (U.S. Patent No. 5,798,744) and AAPA. As stated above, AAPA does not remedy the failure of Rodder to describe or suggest the recited first layer in contact with a gate insulating film. Additionally, Tanaka, which is relied upon solely for teaching that a first layer can be a silicide or a germanium compound, also does not remedy the failure of Rodder to describe or suggest this

feature. Thus, for at least these reasons, applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 30, 37, 44 and 52.

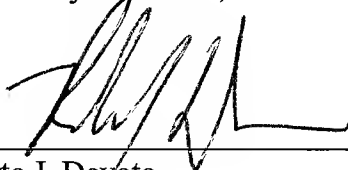
Applicants further note that the Examiner has again failed to provide a proper motivation to combine for supporting a prima facie case of obviousness. In particular, the Examiner once again states that a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would have been motivated to use a germanium compound in place of the silicide in Rodder's silicide body 48 "in order to improve the characteristics of the device." Again, the Examiner has not identified the specific characteristics that would be improved by such a modification and has not cited support, either within the references themselves or within the purported knowledge of a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention, that would have motivated such a person to perform such a modification. For at least this additional reason, applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 30, 37, 44 and 52.

Applicants submit that all claims are in condition for allowance.

The fee in the amount of \$120 for a one-month extension of time is being paid concurrently herewith on the Electronic Filing System (EFS) by way of Deposit Account authorization

Date: 6/11/07

Respectfully submitted,

  
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